

Delta Operations for Salmon and Sturgeon (DOSS) Group

Conference call: 1/18/11, 9:00 a.m.

Objective: Provide advice to the Water Operations Management Team (WOMT) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on measures to reduce adverse effects from Delta operations of the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project on salmon and green sturgeon.

DOSS will coordinate the work of other technical teams. DOSS notes and advice can be found at: <http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/ocap/actions.htm>

DWR: Mike Ford, Andy Chu, Cynthia LeDoux-Bloom

FWS: Nick Hindman

NMFS: Barbara Rocco, Bruce Oppenheim, Barb Byrne, Jeff Stuart

DFG: Joe Johnson

Reclamation: John Hannon

SWRCB: Kari Kyler

Agenda

- 1) Fish monitoring
- 2) Water project operations
- 3) Forecasts
- 4) CWT data for surrogate releases

Fish Monitoring

Due to the Martin Luther King holiday on Monday, the usual trawl and seine catch data was not available.

Knights Landing: Data from 1/9 to 1/15/11 showed average flows were 15,862 cfs. There were 123 salmon caught, of which 118 were fall run, 2 were spring run, and 3 were winter run. There were no late-fall run and no ad-clipped fish. Hatchery steelhead: 14 ad-clipped were caught; no wild steelhead were caught. Coleman NFH released 715,712 ad-clipped steelhead on January 10. In addition, Coleman NFH released 158,000 late-fall Chinook on January 14 into Battle Creek, which are now showing up; however, the catch rate is dropping compared with that of previous weeks.

Tisdale Weir: Data from 1/9 to 1/16/11 show average flows were 15,583 cfs. There were 299 salmonids caught, of which 277 were fall run, 11 were spring run, 3 were winter run, 1 was a late-fall run; there were 6 ad-clipped and 1 non-clipped steelhead. There were no ad-clipped salmon caught. Water temperature averaged 47.8°F; turbidity averaged 11.9 NTU with a high of 20.5 NTU on 1/16/11. Fall- and spring-run CPUE = 22.6; winter- and late-fall run CPUE = 0.21; non-ad-clipped steelhead CPUE = 0.08.

Moulton Weir: Data from 1/9 to 1/16/11 show average flows were 14,239 cfs. There were 332 salmonids caught, of which 276 were fall-run, 5 were spring-run, 6 were winter-run, and 43 ad-clipped and 1 non-clipped steelhead. There were no late-fall run and no ad-clipped salmon caught. Water temperature averaged 46.7°F; average turbidity was 12.1 NTU with a high of 20.3 on 1/15/11. Fall- and spring-run CPUE = 21.5; winter- and late-fall run CPUE = 0.42; non-ad-clipped steelhead CPUE = 0.04.

Salvage data

At the time of this call, DFG had not yet sent the salvage data; however, information was reported during the call as follows:

Salvage has been low over the last 4 days. There was no winter-run loss (Sunday and Monday). Some salmon are coming through that are smaller than the winter run and spring-run size at date criteria (e.g., 35–40 mm size fish are identified as fall run); these are most likely coming out of the tributaries from the high reservoir releases after the storms and are just now showing up in the Delta.

Surrogate loss rate

The 157,000 late-fall salmon released from the Coleman Hatchery on 1/14/11 was the second spring-run surrogate release. The average size at release was 135 mm. The data covers 10/1/10 through 1/9/11 for CWT recoveries. The data covers tags at the SWP through 1/9/11; and all CVP tags through 1/3/11; no tags have shown up at the fish facilities yet for the 1/14 spring-run surrogate release. The December 21, 2010, release resulted in a loss of 0.103% based on read tags to date. The projected loss rate is 0.111%, which is less than the trigger. There are approximately 14 unread tags. There was a large release from the Mokelumne Hatchery because the fall-run fish had been held over for one year and released this year. These hatchery fish are being observed in the salvage (size 200 mm or larger). These are most likely identified as late-fall run; however, they should be fall run at this point. Releases from the Mokelumne Hatchery were 100% tagged. There were supposed to be 100,000 released but that number may have been larger.

Older Juvenile Chinook Loss and Loss Density (1/10–1/16/11)

Combined daily loss from 1/10 to 1/16 peaked on 1/12 at 43.3; loss density peaked at 1.8/TAF. This loss is still less than the number required for the OMR first trigger.

Operations

Feather R: Releases from Oroville Dam were 1,750 cfs.

San Joaquin R at Vernalis: Flows were down to 11,000 cfs over the weekend from 15,000 cfs last week. DWR will find out more about upstream tributary releases – expected up to 12,000 cfs today and tomorrow and then back down to 11,000 cfs.

Jones: CVP exports were 4,100 cfs.

Sacramento R at Freeport: Flows were 30,000 cfs.

San Luis Reservoir: San Luis is on track to fill very soon, but has to slow down the rate of fill because it is near the top of the reservoir—a pump lifting issue. The CVP/SWP projects are restricted to filling at a slower rate for the last 10–15 ft of water. San Luis is about 30 feet from full, so expect the rate of filling to slow down.

Clifton Court: Flows are pumping at 3,500 cfs today and will stay in that level. Flows of 8,660 cfs was last week's high.

American R releases at Nimbus Dam: dropped to 3,000 cfs.

Stanislaus R: Releases are holding at 200 cfs.

Tuolumne River: Flows are up to 5,000 cfs at Modesto; but not at La Grange.

Sacramento R release at Keswick Dam: 6,000 cfs.

OMR: Flows are close to -5,300 cfs. Any time Vernalis is greater than 12,000 cfs, combined pumping can max out at 10,300 cfs. The 5-day moving average is less than -5,000 cfs; yesterday it was -4,970 cfs; however, there are some missing data for yesterday. The 14-day moving average is close to -4,200 cfs. DWR will try to sort out numbers accounting for daily tidal influxes; will most likely have some error. Crews are stabilizing the erosion issue from last week on the mainstem San Joaquin River.

Weather: Dry forecast this week.

Juvenile Production Estimate (JPE): DWR received the 1/12/11, letter from NMFS with this year's winter-run JPE. NMFS both faxed and mailed the letter to Reclamation. It is not posted on the website; however, it is in the mail and is, therefore, considered public information. The incidental take (*i.e.*, 2% of the JPE 332,012) equals 6,640 winter-run Chinook at both export facilities.

DOSS Advice: None

Next Meeting: Conference call: 1/25/11, 9:00 a.m.